

BOROUGH



OF RYDE, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

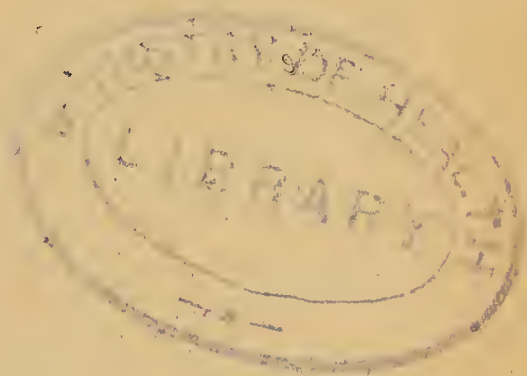
for 1950

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health : D. WARREN BROWNE,†*
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : S. DUNMORE,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary }
Inspector : L. N. JORDAN,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Clerk : MISS D. G. BOYCE.

* Part time Officer.

† Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5 LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Corporation.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the Borough of Ryde for the year 1950. This report has been prepared on the lines of previous years, but it now includes an appendix by your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Vital Statistics.

The vital statistics (tabulated on another page) show little change as compared with 1949. One exception, however, is the Infant Mortality Rate, *i.e.* deaths under one year of age, which was 11.6 per 1000 related live-births, as against 27.4 the previous year. Since the total number of live-births was only 258, it is apparent that an increase or a decrease by only one or two can be misleading when dealing with rates per thousand. Our figure, however, may be considered in relation to the figures for England and Wales as a whole, where the rate was 29.8 per 1000 related live-births. This is extremely satisfactory, and is a reflection of the care given by the local medical practitioners, and of the untiring and devoted work of the district nurses and health visitors. (Attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics alone totalled 2957 during the year.)

The Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population remains almost unchanged at 15.8 (15.3 in 1949). This figure, however, is reduced, by applying the Comparative Factor, to 11.4, which compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales of 11.6. The Comparative Factor is a figure which allows for differences in the local age-groups as compared with the national age-groups; for example, the Crude Death Rate will be misleadingly high in areas which attract elderly people to spend their remaining years there; similarly, industrial areas, populated in the main by the younger age-groups, have correspondingly low Crude Death Rates.

Of the 312 deaths which occurred, 188 were due to cardiovascular diseases, 40 to cancer, 17 to bronchitis and pneumonia, 5 each to accidents and tuberculosis, and the remainder to miscellaneous causes. Of these, the first three causes of death may be expected to increase year by year as the population ages.

In my previous report I referred to the Expectation of Life, which had increased since 1900 by $18\frac{1}{2}$ years for males and 20 years for females. These rates are continuing to increase by nearly six months every year, and the economic and social problems which are resulting from this have yet to be solved. The critical period, 1970, will find us as a large minority of elderly people supported by an ever-dwindling majority of younger people. Our attitude to what we now refer to as "old-age" must change radically. Retirement-ages will have to be adjusted, and retirement itself will have to be a gradual process according to physical and mental abilities only, and not according to actual age itself. One factor only can save us from becoming virtually a population of aged persons, and that is an increased Reproduction Rate. Birth-rates, unfortunately, are now seriously affected by cost-of-living, and above all by lack of housing.

Housing.

I regret to report that housing continues to be our most serious problem in the Borough. Although a number of the worst cases of hardship were re-housed during the year, there remain many families living in the most deplorable state of overcrowding. A disturbing feature of the housing programme is the increasing cost of construction, causing rents to be raised above the reach of many of the more deserving applicants. A tenant with a family of four or five children, and possibly including a dependent parent, will now have to pay 30/1 for a 3-bedroomed house, and 34/2 for one with 4 bedrooms. The effect of this on our birth-rate is becoming apparent. In addition, dependent parents and other elderly relatives are now being thrown on to the charge of the Authorities in increasing numbers, to be cared for, at a very un-economic cost, in institutions.

A radical change in the methods of house construction is now under consideration by the Government, which may reduce rents appreciably, but will not answer the problem completely. A special State subsidy for housing would undoubtedly go far to increasing the birth-rate, and the cost may well be balanced-out within the next generation by increased national productivity and by a reduction in the number of institutions for aged persons. (Sweden, a highly taxed country facing a similar future, has taken a long-term view of the situation by reducing rents by 10% for each child, up to a total of 60%—an expensive measure, but one which might be considered as an insurance policy to safeguard the national future.)



Food.

A Clean Food Campaign was initiated early in the year. In this the Public Health Department was fortunate to obtain strong support from the local food-retailers and catering establishments. Lectures and film shows were given to members of the trade and to the public, and as a result of their co-operation the Borough is becoming one of the most progressive towns in the South in this respect. Much remains to be done, however, and there is no doubt the public is now starting to demand a high standard of hygiene in all branches of food-retailing and food preparation. Very few people, on noticing unhygienic practices, voice their criticisms at the time, but may do so later to their friends and acquaintances ; this is unfair both to the trade as a whole and to the individual owner. (Reluctance to create what may be 'a scene' is part of the national character.)

The public, however, is quick to appreciate progressive practices. Examples of these are the protection of cakes from flies by installation of glass show-cases, the serving of unwrapped sweets with a ladle, the protection of vegetables from dogs by removing them from the pavement level, the use of refrigerated display-cabinets for fish and meat, and the provision of adequate toilet facilities, including soap and clean towels, in restaurants and cafes. Of the important work carried out by your Sanitary Inspector during the year, one which showed considerable initiative was a thorough and painstaking inspection of all public-houses prior to the Licensing Sessions.

Infectious Diseases.

There was little change in the total incidence of infectious diseases as compared with the previous year (155, as against 140 in 1949.) Measles increased, in accordance with its usual cycle. Poliomyelitis increased to a total of 5 cases (3 in 1949) ; in this the Borough was fortunate, as the total number of notified cases, contracted in the Island, was over 100. It is probable that the true Island total, including those so mild as not to come under medical supervision, was in fact many times the notified total.

Tuberculosis.

Once again there has been an increase, by 3, in the number of diagnosed cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough, bringing the total to 35, of which 26 were fresh cases. This increase is due, in part, to earlier diagnosis than in previous years. During the summer a mobile mass-radiography unit visited the area, and in all 2211 persons were X-rayed. From this only 4 cases of previously unexpected tuberculous infection were discovered,

New forms of treatment are giving encouraging results, but prevention of infection is the rational approach to the problem. **Tuberculosis is a preventable disease.**

Smallpox Vaccination.

Considerable anxiety was caused by the occurrence of a case of suspected smallpox in the Borough immediately before the Easter holidays. The patient was a small girl who had just arrived from Palestine and had been a direct contact of another case of suspected smallpox on board the ship before berthing at Liverpool. Happily, laboratory tests proved that the Ryde case was not, in fact, smallpox.

The number of infants now being vaccinated against smallpox each year is insufficient to safeguard the community as a whole. Since compulsory vaccination was abolished a few years ago, fewer parents are troubling to submit their children for protection against the disease. There are very good reasons why vaccination in infancy (at about the age of three months) should be performed :—

(1) Infants under one year of age suffer little or no reaction from vaccination, or from re-vaccination in later life.

(2) When **primary** vaccination is delayed until adult age, reactions are often severe. (Vaccination is now compulsory for all persons proceeding to certain countries abroad. In addition, many males will have to be vaccinated if called up for military service, and females if they undertake hospital-nursing.)

(3) The modern technique of vaccination, by the “multiple pressure” method, minimises any risk of infection. Also—of interest to parents of female infants—it reduces the scar to such a degree that it is frequently invisible after a year.

National Assistance Act.

It became necessary on two occasions to apply to the Courts for the removal of persons who were aged and infirm and who were not receiving adequate care and protection at their homes.

Case 1.

An old lady, aged about 80, had been living alone in one room for many years. At one time she had been moderately well-to-do, but her circumstances became reduced and old age prevented her from looking after herself. She had not undressed herself for months on end, and had spent every night in a chair. Her legs were severely ulcerated and offensive. Her only means of cooking was with a saucepan on the open fire, which was a constant source

of danger to herself and the other occupants of the house. She objected strongly to the suggestion that she should enter a home for old folk, and eventually permission was given by the Court for her removal to St. Mary's Hospital, Newport.

Case 2.

This was another old lady, living with her elderly husband in a fairly large house. She was a woman of considerable culture, but the years had taken their toll. She lived in considerable squalor, and was severely disabled by complete deafness, and defective vision, and was crippled as a result of a fracture of the thigh. Again the Court sanctioned her removal—in this case to a nursing home of considerable charm and attraction.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DONALD WARREN BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics.

(1) GENERAL.

Area, in acres	...	...	...	(as at 31/3/51)	7,876
Number of inhabited houses					
according to rate books	...		„		5,896
Rateable Value	...	...	...	„	£161,540
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...		„		£648 2. 2.
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	31.44 inches
Sunshine	...	...	..	...	1798.3 hours

(2) VITAL.

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	...	19,750
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated				
resident population	...	...	...	13.1
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	1.05
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	13.8
Live Birth Rate England and Wales			...	15.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Still and Live				
Births)	...	...	...	22.7
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident				
population	...	...	...	15.8
Comparative factor (deaths)			...	0.71
Comparative Death Rate	...	...	...	11.2
Death Rate England and Wales			...	11.6
Deaths from Puerperal causes :—				
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births)—				
From Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
From other causes			...	3.8

DEATH RATE :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	11.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live		
births	...	12.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate		
live births	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	40

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	15	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective) ..	1	1	—
Measles	110	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	18	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	4	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ...	3	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ...	2	2	—
	155	10	—

Age at Date of Notification.

AGE.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Meningococcal Infection	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Measles	Whooping Cough	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Malaria	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)
Under 1 .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2 .	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
2 " 3 .	3	—	—	—	—	—	15	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 " 4 .	1	—	—	—	—	—	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 " 5 .	1	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
5 " 10 .	9	—	—	—	—	1	57	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
10 " 15 .	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20 .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20 " 35 .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
35 " 45 .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " 65 .	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	15	—	—	—	2	1	110	18	—	—	—	4	—	3	2

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

(a)	Total number of outbreaks ...	...	...	None
(b)	Number of single cases (cause unknown)	...	...	4
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	None

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools.

Mumps	...	...	...	2
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	8
German Measles	...	...	...	1
Impetigo	...	...	...	1
Ringworm	...	...	...	1
				13

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

				Age under 5 years	5—15 years
Percentage of the child population it is considered were immunised at 31.12.50				38.2	58.0

(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere).

Tuberculosis, 1950.

AGE PERIODS.	Total	NEW CASES.				Total	DEATHS.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
Under ... 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15	5	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
20 „ 25	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ 35	14	8	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45	3	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 „ 55	2	1	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	—
55 „ 65	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 „ 75	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
75 and over .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	†35	15	11	3	6	*6	5	—	1	—

† This total includes nine transfers from the mainland and one case in which the death return gave the first information.

* This total includes one case who died from another disease

Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1950, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight,

Part I of the Act.

1. **Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	117	20	1	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	62	2	—
(III) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	152	82	3	—

2. **Cases in which Defects were found.**

Particulars.	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	10	—	—	—

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Corporation.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report of my first complete year as your Senior Sanitary Inspector. For the first time, too, my report is, by permission of the Medical Officer of Health, set out separately.

You will see from the Report that my Assistant and myself have endeavoured to give attention to all matters which actually or potentially affect the health of the residents of the Borough as far as the Sanitary Inspector is concerned.

In order to present a comprehensive outline of the Department's work, I have set out the Report in four sections as follows :—

Section	I	Sanitary Circumstances.	} With comments where these appear necessary.
,,	II	Housing.	
,,	III	Food Matters.	
,,	IV	Miscellaneous.	

Section I—Sanitary Circumstances.

Summary of Inspections and Visits during 1950.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	92
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	149
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	97
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	...				249
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	247
Verminous Premises or Rooms			...	...	16
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	16
Drainage Inspections and Tests			...	..	341
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...		..	...	88
Stables and Piggeries	...		...	...	4
Factories, with power	...		...	...	37
Factories, without Power	...		...	...	15
Outworkers' Rooms	...		...	...	2
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	8
Places of Entertainment, etc.			...	...	2
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	198
Vacant Land and Dumps	...		...	...	31
Miscellaneous Visits	...		...	...	141

Cesspools ...	...	...	...	27
Swimming Pools ...	...	...	...	4
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	2
Foreshores, Streams, etc. ...	...	...	...	18
Common Yards and Passages	...	...	...	4

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	...	...	45
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	77
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	...	...	25
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	...	...	2
New Cesspools Constructed	...	...	1
Disposal Plants Installed	...	...	4
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	13
Animals—Nuisances Abated...	...	...	2
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	3
Cellars Cleared after Flooding	...	...	3
Contraventions Remedied in Factories & Workplaces	...	...	3
Contraventions Remedied in Shops	...	...	10
Dangerous Structures made Safe	...	...	6

Complaints.

388 complaints were received during the year, an increase of 26 over the previous year. All were investigated and dealt with according to their nature.

Water Supply.

A pure, constant supply of water has been maintained from the Corporation's water works during the year.

The total consumption for the year was 286,522,000 gallons with a daily average of 784,000 gallons, which was an increase of 3,035 gallons in the daily average.

49 Bacteriological examinations and 1 chemical analysis were made during the year, of which 11 bacteriological samples were found to be unsatisfactory. Upon investigation into the cause, it was found to be due to defects in the water service pipes at the place of sampling. These defects were remedied and further samples taken proved satisfactory.

The water is obtained from four deep wells at Knighton and Ashey, and these supplies can be augmented from the Sandown supply if necessary.

Chlorination of all sources has been carried out in accordance with Ministry of Health requirements, and only a minimum dosage is required in view of the clarity and purity of the sources.

(Borough Water Engineer).

Drainage.

Almost all of the Borough drainage is connected to sewers which discharge by outfalls into the Solent. Small sewerage works at St. Helens and Havenstreet deal with the sewage of those villages. There are, however, a number of septic tanks serving houses in areas without sewers, which were mainly developed between the wars, which are a frequent source of nuisance, since the clay subsoil does not permit satisfactory soakage of the effluent. The mechanical emptier purchased last year has proved a great asset in cleansing septic tanks, cesspools and street gullies. Bucket closets are confined to a few cottages in the rural district of the Borough, and these are emptied by the occupiers.

Public Cleansing.

This service is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. A weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse was maintained throughout the Borough during the year. A daily service for the collection of trade refuse in the main streets was carried out. A total of approximately 5,000 tons of refuse was collected and disposed by "controlled tipping" at Nettlestone. Regular treatment of the tip by the Rodent Officer ensured no nuisance from vermin, and regular spraying of the tip surface during the fly-breeding season kept this pest under control.

During the autumn an approximate survey of domestic receptacles was made, and it was found that approximately 1,000 bins in an insanitary and defective state were in use. This unsatisfactory state of affairs was reported to my Public Health Committee, and they decided that letters requesting renewal of defective receptacles be sent to the owners or occupiers. However, shortly afterwards the ban on manufacture of galvanized dustbins came into operation, with the result that they could no longer be obtained, and my plan to see the Borough equipped with sanitary dustbins was temporarily abandoned, after the serving of 720 letters.

Infectious Disease.

Infectious diseases during the year have been "conspicuous by their absence," and only 6 premises were disinfected following infectious cases.

The Council's steam disinfecting plant was found to be in need of thorough overhaul after giving some thirty years trouble-free service. It has been decided to renew the boiler and overhaul the disinfector, and we shall then have an efficient plant available as and when required.

The poliomyelitis outbreak in the Island last summer involved the Department in a great amount of "preventative polio precautions," which I feel may have been of some success since only five cases occurred within the Borough during the year. Hundreds of questions and 'phone calls were answered and fears allayed, pamphlets were distributed all food premises were visited with special attention to cafes and restaurants, and frequent visits were made to camps and bathing beaches within the Borough.

Caravans and Camping.

A number of enquiries were received during the year from persons wishing to licence caravans for permanent living purposes, but these were discouraged, and only urgent applications considered. Close liaison was kept with the County Planning Officer concerning any caravan applications. 6 caravan licences, for not more than one year in the first instance, were granted during the year.

There were 2 small licensed camping sites within the Borough. Both camps contain a small number of caravans and tentage space and are occupied only between 1st March and 31st October.

Camping by organized units (i.e. Scouts, etc.) and individual persons was popular for about a month during the summer, in the main confined to the eastern area and Quarr area of the Borough. Inspections were made wherever campers were found, and advice was given when necessary. I found that organized units observed their camping codes but individual campers were often ignorant of even elementary hygiene, leaving a trail of litter, etc. behind them. Before the end of the year all land owners were circularised, requesting their intentions as to the use of their land for camping purposes in the future, and a start was made to prepare a Camping Code to obtain an improved standard throughout the Borough.

Verminous Premises.

16 premises were treated to destroy vermin, and it will be seen from this figure that this is, fortunately, a negligible problem. The appearance of bugs is now very rare, and the vermin problem is mainly confined to destruction of cockroaches.

Shops Acts, 1912-34; Shops Act, 1950.

At the end of the year there were 457 shops on the register, varying from the large stores in the main shopping centre to small family or household establishments. 198 Inspections were made and 10 contraventions found and rectified by service of informal notice.

The Shops Act, 1950, came into force on the 1st October, and, except for minor changes, was a consolidating Act.

Factories Act, 1937.

There were 115 premises on the register. With one exception, these are all small businesses employing a small number of persons, since there is no major industry within the Borough. 52 inspections were made, and 3 contraventions found and remedied by informal notice.

Swimming Pools.

There is one open-air swimming pool at a holiday camp in the Borough, and this was also used by local schools during the summer. The pool is equipped with a modern filtration chlorination plant and aeration cascade. The water of the pool was sampled for bacteriological examination each week and found at all times to be satisfactory.

Rats and Mice.

These rodents are dealt with by the County Rodent Officer and his staff, who operate under the control of the I.W. Joint Rodent Destruction Committee, comprising representatives of each Local Authority.

During the year 608 properties, comprised of Council's property, dwellinghouses, business premises and agricultural property, were inspected, entailing 1,113 visits. 201 treatments for destruction of both rats and mice, and 182 treatments for destruction of mice only were carried out. 136 of the Council's sewer manholes were also treated.

Section II—Housing.

During the year under review the house problem continued to be a major one. The new houses built have not greatly improved the situation, and the shortage of good building materials and the general high cost of repairs has greatly hampered our efforts to get any improvement in the general standard of existing working-class properties in the Borough. There are many cottage properties which have reached or are reaching the worn-out stage, and these are often let at low controlled rents. It is often not an economical proposition or even a financial possibility for owners to effect large scale repairs or improvements, and we therefore endeavour to keep them habitable by requiring repairs of only an essential nature.

Another aspect of the housing problem too, also as a result of the shortage, is the conversion in post-war years of houses, often without structural alteration, into so-called flats or rooms. These often lack adequate sanitary amenities (i.e. W.C., water supply, sink, etc.) and frequently include a thoroughly damp, dark and dismal basement "flat."

At the end of the year there were 377 Council houses and 22 requisitioned tenements in the Borough, and these are controlled by Mr. Lugg, the Council's Housing Manager.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	..	...	...	...	260
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	261
Re-visits to Premises under Notice Public Health Act					385
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	85
Re-visits to Premises under Notice Housing Acts...					21
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	...				434
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	..	...	...	28
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	10

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	...	...	15
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	...	...	25
Dampness Abated	...	...	41

Doors Repaired or Renewed ...	...	...	16
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed...	...	...	30
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	16
Floors Repaired or Renewed ...	...	...	36
Handrails Fixed in Staircases ...	...	...	1
Roofs Repaired or Renewed ...	...	...	62
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	9
Sinks Provided ...	...	...	3
Sinks Repaired or Renewed ...	...	...	4
Sashcords Provided or Repaired	...	...	23
Stairs Repaired or Renewed ...	...	...	5
Ventilation Provided ...	...	...	3
Walls (External) Repointed or Repaired	...	...	21
Walls (Internal) Repaired ...	...	...	44
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	34
Water Supplies Provided ...	...	...	2
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed ...	...	...	7
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	...	...	3
New W.C's Provided ...	...	...	14
W.C. Compartments Repaired	...	...	22
W.C. Pedestals Provided ...	...	...	23
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	...	...	3
New Dustbins Provided ...	...	...	3

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

According to my Department's records there are 272 food premises within this Borough.

Clean Food Campaign.

With the approval of the Public Health Committee and in co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health, I organized a Clean Food Campaign, which consisted of the adoption of a Standard Code of Practice for Food Premises, together with public meetings, including film displays, at which there were good attendances by persons in many different branches of the food trade. The local Press gave excellent publicity to the campaign, and reference was made to it in the B.B.C. Western News. The campaign and its objects have been well received by the members of the food trades, and a steady improvement in premises and food handling methods, etc. has been evident.

The Ryde Borough Council also adopted, in June, Byelaws with respect to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

Meat Inspection, etc.

There was no slaughtering of animals carried out within the Borough, all animals being slaughtered and inspected elsewhere prior to delivery and sale. Routine inspections and condemnations of meat have, however, been carried out.

The following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit :

Meat (Imported) ...	...	...	12 cwts.
Meat (Home Killed) ...	...	...	3 „
Poultry ...	...	...	51lb.
Fish ...	...	...	2½ stones

Condemned Foods, etc.

A large quantity of tinned and packet foods has been condemned and destroyed during the past year. The principal reason for condemnation was due to cans being blown and contents putrified. A considerable quantity of cans are damaged in transit through rough handling and inferior packing and have to be destroyed.

I have not been entirely satisfied that the canning processes of some of the tinned foods from the Continent are of good standard, as the interior tinning, lacquering and the sealing of the cans have frequently been faulty. One large consignment of imported tinned pork was considered suspect and was held pending an examination by the Public Analyst, whose report indicated contamination. The Ministry of Food were informed of the state of this consignment, in order that they could investigate how this meat come to be imported, and examine any similar consignments held elsewhere before distribution for sale.

The following items of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned ;—

Cooked Meats (Tinned Meat, Sausages, Meat Pies, etc.)				...	...	...	164½ lbs.
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	141 „
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	112 „
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	74¼ „
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	44 „
Almond Rock Toffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	28 „
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	14¾ „
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	6½ „
Shredded Beef Suet	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Meat, Milk, Fish, Vegetables, Fruit, etc.—				1,389 tins, jars and bottles			
Grapes	...	...	...	...	...	...	25 barrels
Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	...	31 packets
Diabetic Slices	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 „
Dehydrated Potato	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	57 doz.
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Swiss Rolls	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Apple Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Christmas Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food Analysis.

59 samples of foods were purchased by the County Council sampling officers, and submitted for analysis, as follows :—

Milk	37	Ground Almonds	1
Honey Lumps	1	Cherry Jam	1
Essence of Peppermint	1	Butter	1
Pancake Mixture	1	Margarine	1
Vegetable Salad	1	Condensed Milk	1
Nut-filled Fudge	1	Sparkling Cherryade	1
Pepper	2	Procea Bread	1
White Pepper	1	Beef Sausages	4
Pepper-flavoured Com-		Lard	1
pound	1	Mango Chutney	1

6 samples were certified by the County Analyst to be of unsatisfactory quality, and Court proceedings were taken in respect of 2 of these.

Milk Supplies.

This Department is now only responsible for milk distribution within the Borough. There were 11 distributors registered. I am unable to accurately give the number of producer-retailers operating, as they are now not subject to registration by the Local Authority.

The following registrations and licences were granted :—

Registration as Distributor of Milk	...	...	11
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy	...	...	11
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	10
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited"	...	...	1
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	7

Ice-Cream.

The popularity of ice-cream has greatly increased during the year, and the Ministry of Food's increased allocation of ingredients to the manufacturers has seen a sharp increase in the number of applications by local shops to store and sell ice-cream, and the number of premises on the register at the end of the year was :—

Premises registered for manufacture, storage and sale	3
Premises registered for storage and sale	89

During the year 17 informal samples were taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue Reduction Test), and the results were as follows :—

Grades	I	II	III	IV	Test inconclusive
	9	3	4	—	1

Bakehouses.

There were 21 bakehouses in the district at the end of the year. Several of these are old premises and will call for modernization in the near future. None are underground bakehouses.

Licensed Premises.

For the first time, at my suggestion, the Police agreed that when they made their yearly inspection of licensed premises prior to the annual licensing sessions, a sanitary inspector from this Department should also inspect to advise on matters of hygiene, with the result that 65 premises were inspected and 45 recommendations made.

All premises are now equipped with sinks and hot and cold water, and, with three exceptions which have since been the subject of special attention, all the licensed premises were found to be very well maintained.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	6
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.					195
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	94
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Food & Drugs Act	..	...	...	...	26
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	58
Fishmongers and Poulterers		...	...	...	11
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	14
Grocers and Other Food Shops		...	...	...	59
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	30
Fried Fish Shops		...	...	...	6
Dairies	...	...	...	...	26
Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	5
Ice-Cream Premises		...	...	...	87
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	62
Licensed Premises		...	...	...	68
Hotels	...	...	...	...	10
Food Enforcement		...	...	...	25
Infestations	...	...	...	...	5

Contraventions Remedied in:—

Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	6
Food Premises Generally	...	..	...	8

Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II & III).

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	161
Public Health Act (Formal)	...	...	10
Factories Act, Mechanical Power	...	...	2
Shops Act	...	...	9
Food & Drugs Act	...	...	14

Section IV—Miscellaneous.

In addition to the duties carried out by this Department in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935, the following duties are administered :

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

38 premises were licensed for storage of petroleum spirit, and the total amount for which these licences were issued was 35,240 gallons. One licence to store 40 gallons of petroleum mixtures was issued. £25 5s. 0d., in fees, was paid to the Local Authority for the above licences.

66 visits were made to the garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with.

Shops Acts—Closing Hours.

The department is responsible for the compliance with 'hours of closing' by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Acts, various Closing Orders and Orders made under Defence Regulation 60 A.B. The shops generally closed throughout the year, earlier than required to do so, and no contraventions were dealt with.

Hackney Carriages.

As Hackney Carriages Inspector I am responsible for the Council's bye-laws relative to these vehicles, of which there were 61 licensed during the year, and 33 inspections and visits were made.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. DUNMORE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



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RYDE, I.W.